



# ***The Enlisted Perspective***

*By CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley*

9 March 2007

## **Saving Energy, Saving Our Air Force**

Air Force CEOs – Civilians, Enlisted and Officers – work hard on energy and resource conservation programs. We’ve made great strides in our efforts – developing synthetic aviation fuel, then testing our aircraft on these fuels; running more than 25% of our ground vehicles on alternative and flex fuels and cutting our energy consumption by 30% over 20 years. However, the enlisted force comprises about 80% of the Air Force. This means enlisted Airman have potentially the biggest impact towards guaranteeing the Air Force remains a leader in saving energy and resources for America’s future generations.

The Air Force core value of Excellence in All We Do translates into direct action when we apply our values to energy conservation. By taking simple actions, each Airman saves Air Force energy assets and conserves resources. Please note “simple” actions, not little or small. There is nothing diminutive about saving Air Force dollars and resources. By turning lights off when rooms are vacant, keeping thermostats between 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit, and switching computer monitors off when not in use, Airmen and their families contribute energy credits to the Air Force’s conservation account.

Did you know conserving water saves electricity too? Water is itself a resource we need to safeguard, however, many people don’t realize our air bases spend a great deal of electrical power supplying, and then cleaning up water after its been used. So by taking steps such as waiting until you have a full load before running the washing machine or dishwasher and using a broom instead of the water hose to clean sidewalks and driveways, we can all save energy in our housing, work and recreation areas.

Airmen should also look for new ways to save energy. Many Air Force energy efficiency successes are the result of Airmen streamlining major fuel consumption programs. Nevertheless, while we see big dividends in our overall energy conservation efforts, there’s always room for improvement. We can’t forget to analyze our everyday actions for opportunities to conserve energy.

Our country has entrusted us with its resources. Through our personal actions, we can save dollars earmarked for energy expenditures. The Air Force dollars we save will more than likely be invested in our quality of life programs, weapons systems or research and development. These investments in turn further enhance the defense of our nation – a trust we must keep.

I look forward to working with you as we save energy – and realize savings to our Air Force.



*Rodney J. McKinley*  
**RODNEY J. MCKINLEY**  
**Chief Master Sergeant**  
**of the Air Force**